State Transport.

10. *Mr. M. K. **Velu Pillai** (*Quilon* cum *Kunnathur*): Will the Government be pleasee to state:

(*a*) whether they intend transferring the State Transport to private agencies; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the intended transfer?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker (*Secretary to Government*) No.

Grant to Municipalities.

11. *Mr. K. A. **Raman Pillai** (*Municipal Councils*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount of Government grant to Municipalities for each of the last ten years;

(*b*) the basis on which the distribution of grant is made between the several Municipalities;

(*c*) the amount of Government grant to Trivandrum Corporation for each of the last ten years;

(*d*) is any grant made to the Trivandrum Corporation for the year 1120; and

(*e*) if the answers to parts (a) to (d) are in the nagative, the reasons therefor?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: (a) and (c): A * statement containing the information is laid on the table.

(*b*) Award of grant is restricted to those Municipalities which in view of their limited possibilities and resources require financial aid from Government and which but for such support may not be able to carry on their administration efficiently.

(*d*) Not yet. The question is usually considered towards the latter part of the year.

(*e*) In view of answers to parts (a) to (d) the question does not arise.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know the reason for the larger decrease in the amounts of grant to Municipalities especially in recent years?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: It is with a view to improving the finances of the municipality, Government have passed the District Municipalities Act empowering them to levy additional taxation. Such of the municipalities who have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded under the Act have increased their resources and therefore Government do not find the need to give grants for running the routine administration of the municipalities.

* *Vide* Appendix II p. 16.

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